

Amendment to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A computer switching system comprising:
a removable module; and
a switch operable to communicatively couple a plurality of devices,
wherein the removable module is external to the switch;
wherein the switch is operable to receive the removable module, and wherein the switch comprises a switching fabric;
wherein the removable module comprises one or more module routing components operable to communicatively couple the devices when the removable module is received by the switch, and wherein the removable module comprises at least a portion of the switching fabric.
2. (Currently Amended) The switching system of claim 1, wherein the switch further comprises one or more intermediate routing components operable to communicatively couple with the module routing components when the removable module is received by the switch.
3. (Previously Amended) The switching system of claim 2, wherein the module routing components are the same type as the intermediate routing components.
4. (Previously Amended) The switching system of claim 2, wherein the intermediate routing components and module routing components are ASIC-based routing components.

5. (Previously Amended) The switching system of claim 2, wherein the number of module routing components is equal to half the number of intermediate routing components.

6. (Currently Amended) The switching system of claim 1, wherein the switch is operable to receive a plurality of removable modules.

7-18. (Canceled).

19. (Currently Amended) A method for upgrading the bisectional bandwidth of a network comprising a plurality of devices, comprising the steps of:

providing a network switch operable to communicatively couple the devices attached to the network, wherein the network switch comprises a module interface operable to receive a module and wherein the switch comprises a switching fabric;

providing a removable module comprising one or more module routing components operable to communicatively couple the devices when the removable module is received by the network switch, wherein the removable module is external to the switch, and wherein the removable module comprises at least a portion of the switching fabric; and

receiving the removable module.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein the network switch further comprises one or more intermediate routing components operable to communicatively couple with the module routing components when the removable module is received by the network switch.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the module routing components are the same type as the intermediate routing components.

22. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the intermediate routing components and module routing components are ASIC-based routing components.

23. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the number of module routing components is equal to half the number of intermediate routing components.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein the network switch is operable to receive a plurality of removable modules.